



Environmental Laboratory Advisory Committee (ELAC) Final Meeting Minutes: April 14, 2005

Editorial Note: Information communicated in these minutes is not to be used as official New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection policy or as an official Department notification. Contact NJDEP officials directly for official information regarding matters communicated in these minutes.

Administrative Business

Chair Harvey Klein (GSL) called the meeting to order at 9:37AM. Mildred Reyes (Chemtech) made a motion to accept the March meeting minutes with one correction to the PT section requested by Rachel Werner. PT samples may be purchased from any approved vendor who supplies the required VHS data. The minutes were approved.

Subcommittee Reports

Laboratory Certification Program: Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) stated that the renewal applications for FY2006 have been addressed and that laboratories should expect ACPL's to be sent out within two weeks.

Harvey Klein (GSL) mentioned an email update from Dr. Miller written in response to questions on the implementation of the new Accreditation and Experimental FoPT tables that have a start date of June 1, 2005. The email was sent to the ELAC email roster and is attached to these minutes.

Harvey Klein (GSL) displayed a large print of Enterococcus colonies from the EPA 1600 method that demonstrates their characteristic response on this agar.

Mildred Reyes (Chemtech) asked about two new listings in Part III for CLP labs addressing certification for Statement of Work (SOW) for Organic Analysis SOM 01.0 and the Statement of Work ILM 5.3 for Inorganic Analysis. Rachel Werner referred her to Andy Fishman (NJDEP-OQA).

PT program: Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) stated that the PT contract award recommendation has been given to ERA and NSI. The VHS data supplied by NSI is being protested by two providers. NSI was awarded the WP study and some miscellaneous analytes. ERA was awarded the remainder of the contract.

Phil Worby (QC Labs) asked about the pricing on the PT samples and Rachel Werner noted that during the contract there would be a 15% reduction from the book prices on ERA PT samples.

Rachel Werner stated there would be a letter sent out to state labs informing them to purchase their PT samples for the June WP study from an approved vendor who supplies the VHS data. She stated that the department would accept results from DMR-QA study samples. Ms. Werner stated that OQA wanted state labs to remain on a yearly schedule for PT testing.

Harvey Klein (GSL) requested that information on the WP study be discussed at the NJWEA seminar held in Atlantic City in May because many state labs will be in attendance at the laboratory seminar.

NELAC / INELA Update: Harvey Klein (GSL) noted that the NELAC website has been moved and updated.

NJQL's: Harvey Klein (GSL) informed the committee that there is a NJQL meeting on May 9th to initiate the beta test of the NJQL database.

Bioassay: No report

Sludge (Biosolids): No report. Phil Worby (QC Labs) suggested that Anthony Pilawski be contacted for an update on this committee.

Communications and OQA Website: Harvey Klein (GSL) noted that the OQA website was updated. A brochure about the HDC-SETAC seminar named "Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry" to be held on April 28-29, 2005 at Rutgers College, New Brunswick, NJ was emailed to the ELAC roster at the request of Betty Boros-Russo (NJDEP-OQA).

Old Business

Bureau of Safe Drinking Water: Linda Bonnette (NJDEP-BSDW) informed the committee that the E2 deliverables will be ready for testing within two weeks. In-house testing will take place and then Phil Royer will contact five labs to start testing within a month. The testing will include testing the NJQL database.

Harvey Klein (GSL) asked if a perchlorate standard will be established and stated that the Drinking Water Quality Institute has proposed a limit of 4-5 ppb. Mr. Klein explained that perchlorate is both a naturally occurring and man-made chemical. Most of the perchlorate manufactured in the United States is used as the primary ingredient of solid rocket propellant. No MCL has been established at this time.

PWTA: Linda Bonnette (NJDEP-BSDW) states that Diane Pupa is back with the department on a temporary basis to assist with the new database system. There are two initiatives. One is the portal delivery project with Enfotech as the vendor. There is a different vendor for the software. The new target date for the database to be up and running is October 2005.

New Business

Lead in School Drinking Water Initiative: Diana Pupa informed the committee about the DEP/EPA initiative called Lead in School Drinking Water. The LCCA (Lead Contamination Control Act) of 1988 required the EPA to develop a guidance document and testing protocol for lead in water for schools and daycare centers. This is a requirement that schools are not remembering to implement. Diane Pupa stated that twenty percent of samples tested exceed the 20 ppb action limit. Ms. Pupa stated that the EPA is encouraging schools to take a

proactive approach to the implementation of this testing to protect their school children. Diane Pupa handed out a brochure and suggested laboratories that are requested to perform this testing become informed on the requirements of this program as they differ from the lead testing protocols under the SDWA. There are different protocols for different sites. For example, the first flush sample is to be collected into a 250 ml bottle instead of the liter bottle required for lead and copper testing under SDWA. Ms. Pupa stated there would be a discussion on this topic in the meeting room this summer. Ms. Pupa suggested that laboratories review the information contained in the guidance documents concerning lead in schools and day care nurseries which can be obtained at www.epa.gov/safewater/Pubs and call her with questions.

There were not any other new issues. The meeting adjourned at 10:19 A.M.

The next meeting is scheduled for 09:30 AM on May 12, 2005 – 4th Floor Conference Room.

Note: All visitors must show one form of identification with a photo, or two non-photo IDs, when signing in at a DEP building. This will be performed at all DEP main lobbies in the Trenton complex (401, 501, 440 and 428).

All visitors should be prepared to verify their identification.

Attachment:

EMAIL UPDATE:

From: Michael.W Miller
To: Interested parties
Date: 3/24/05 3:04PM
Subject: RE: New postings on the NELAC FoPT list

The PT Board posted new analyte evaluation criteria and new "experimental" analytes on the NELAC Fields of Proficiency Testing (FoPT) list December 1, 2004.

The following is the NELAC PT Board directive on the implementation of the FoPT list;

"To assure that all laboratories are being evaluated at all times in a fair and consistent manner and that accrediting authorities and PT Providers have sufficient time to implement the changes, the PT Board adopted a single implementation date of June 1, 2005. PT studies with a shipment date on or after June 1, 2005 must contain the additional analytes and be evaluated using the criteria on the attached table. Conversely PT studies with a shipment date prior to June 1, 2005 must be evaluated according to the existing criteria."

The FoPT has two parts, first the NELAC PT for Accreditation and second Experimental NELAC PT. The new analytes are listed in **BLUE**. Analytes with revised criteria are listed in **RED**.

Impact on NELAP Laboratories

Laboratories accredited or seeking accreditation in the new analytes (BLUE) listed in “NELAC PT for Accreditation” must participate in proficiency testing study rounds at the NELAC-required frequency after June 1, 2005. Laboratories have an 18 month window to obtain accreditation. Laboratories that have accreditation for these analytes must successfully complete the PT study rounds by November 1, 2006 to maintain accreditation.

Quote from NELAC PT Board: "Laboratories accredited or seeking accreditation in the corresponding Fields of Accreditation must participate at the frequency for the Experimental Fields of Proficiency Testing after June 1, 2005. However, accreditation status will not be based on whether the laboratory received an acceptable or not-acceptable result for the Proficiency Test Sample."

Many of the NELAC experimental analytes have been and are required analytes in the New Jersey PT Program. Laboratories have been required to pass one in a 12 month period **in order to do environmental work in New Jersey**. Starting June 1, 2005, **in order to do environmental work in New Jersey**, NELAP laboratories must pass two out of the last three PT samples in a 14 month period for the New Jersey required analytes. Accreditation does not depend on passing experimental PTs.

Impact on ELCP program

On June 1, 2005, Pt Providers will start using the new evaluation criteria on PT studies.

ELCP laboratories must pass one PT per year for new analytes (BLUE) listed in the “NELAC PT for Accreditation” and the NELAC experimental analytes that are required analytes in the New Jersey PT Program.